

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SINGAP 02096 100949Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 AID-05
VO-05 CA-01 CIAE-00 /052 W
-----058433 100953Z /10

O P 100910Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 240
INS/CO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY
US MISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 500
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

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HONG KONG FOR INS DIDIR FELDMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF
SUBJ: CORRECTION OF INFORMATION REGARDING SHIP REGENSTEIN
AKA REGENT STATE AND THREATENED RETURN OF 64 REFUGEES ABOARD
SHIP REGENSTEIN TO VIETNAM

REF: A. SINGAPORE 2041 B. STATE 116937 C. SINGAPORE 2052
D. HONG KONG 5842 (NOTAL) E. HONG KONG 5819

1. EMBASSY, SURPRISED AT BEING MISINFORMED BY UNHCR, HAS
CONFIRMED SHIP'S NAME AS REGENSTEIN VICE REGENT STATE, THAT
VESSEL IS OWNED BY A LIBERIAN NATIONAL, RESIDENT OF THE
U.(., THAT THE SHIP IS UNDER CHARTER TO HAPAG LLOYD CO.
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OF WEST GERMANY AND FOR THE PAST 18 MONTHS HAS BEEN
REGISTERED AS A SINGAPORE FLAG VESSEL (REFTEL D).

2. EMBASSY THEREFORE HAS NOT PASSED INS GUARANTEE FOR THE
64 REFUGEES (REFTEL E) TO GOS PENDING GUIDANCE FROM
DEPARTMENT.

3. MR. ALLAN KAYE, BRITISH CONSUL AT SINGAPORE, WHEN QUIERIED INFORMED US THAT THE BRITISH FOREIGN OFFICE, WHEN NOTIFIED OF PLAN TO RETURN REFUGEES TO VIETNAM, REQUESTED OWNER OF VESSEL TO RETRACT SAILING ORDER. AS YET LOCAL SHIPPING AGENT HAS NOT BEEN INFORMED OF ANY CHANGE OF INSTRUCTIONS AND SHIP MAY STILL DEPART FOR VIETNAM TOMORROW. MR. KAYE ALSO STATED THAT UNHCR HIGH COMMISSIONER AT GENEVA HAD BEEN APPRISED OF THE SITUATION AND HAD CALLED IN THE CHARGE OF THE SINGAPORE MISSION IN GENEVA TO DISCUSS THE MATTER AND HAD PASSED NOTE FOR PRIME MINISTER LEE- STRESSING UNHCR CONCERN AND REQUESTING HIS PERSONAL INTERVENTION IN ARRANGING REFUGEES DISEMBARKATION FROM VESSEL.

4. ACCORDING TO UNHCR REP. CARPENTER, THE MAIN STUMBLINE BLOCK WHICH HAS RESULTED IN REFUSAL BY THE U.K. FRG AND AUSTRALIA TO GUARANTEE RESETTLEMENT OF THESE REFUGEES IN THE VESSEL'S SINGAPORE REGISTRY. THE GOS, HOWEVER, REFUSES TO GRANT THE REFUGEES TEMPORARY ASYLUM WITHOUT AN IRON CLAD GUARANTEE FROM ANOTHER COUNTRY, CLAIMING THAT THE SHIP WHICH IS NOT SINGAPOREAN OWNED WAS REGISTERED IN SINGAPORE AS A MATTER OF CONVENIENCE AND IS NOT THEIR RESPONSIBILITY.

5. EMBASSY FORESEES NO IMMEDIATE SOLUTION TO THIS STAND OFF POSITION AND WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S AND INS/CO ADVICE ON WHETHER TO EXTEND GUARANTEE TO GOS AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR.
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HOLDRIDGE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, REFUGEES, SEA RESCUES, SHIP MOVEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SINGAP02096
Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780198-0105
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780573/aaaackga.tel
Line Count: 95
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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